How does the usage of smartphones affect the academic results of Raffles Institution Secondary 1 to 4 student?

Smartphones are mobile phones but unlike the other cell phones, these smartphones are more advanced. They have many more functions such as GPS navigation, Wi-fi and camera. All smartphones are based on an operating system which allows the smartphone to run applications such as games. Some examples of operating systems are the Apple iOS, the Google Android and the Blackberry OS(Cassavoy).

According to a research conducted in May 2011, 35 percent of the Americans surveyed own smartphones. One quarter of the smartphone users claims that their smartphones were their main internet connection. Android phones were most common among the Americans surveyed followed by iPhones and Blackberry phones. Android users were very common among young adults and African Americans while iPhone users were common among the rich (MacManus, 2011).

Smartphones have many advantages such as fast communication and connectivity and great functionality. Smartphones allow the user to access internet through 3g and Wi-fi. Smartphone users can check their email anywhere and it is very convenient. However, there are some disadvantages of it. As smartphones have many functions, students tend to download games. When they get addicted to the games, they will usually spend more time on smartphones. Thus, they will spend less time on their studies and with their family members.

1. Framing my research topic
   1. Problems/obstacles related to smartphones
      1. Students may be addicted to the games downloaded in the smartphones and will be distracted from revising their work.
      2. Students may not communicate with their family members as often because the students will spend more time on their smartphones.
      3. Students may be addicted to the games and may stay up at night to play the games. Hence, their sleep will be affected.
   2. Solutions to overcome the problems/obstacles
      1. The parents of the students can set restrictions on the students’ smartphones.
      2. The students can give themselves a time limit to use their smartphones everyday.
      3. The students’ teachers can educate them on the negative effects of using smartphones.
2. Reasons of choice of topic
   1. Why have I chosen this topic?
      1. Many teenagers nowadays are using smartphones everyday and I want to find out if using smartphones will affect their academic performance. I believe that doing this project will raise awareness among teenagers that smartphones may affect their studies.
   2. How does it enable me to fulfil the requirements of the project task?
      1. This topic is a relevant topic nowadays as more and more teenagers are using smartphones and the results of this project may be able to help teenagers lessen their time spent of using smartphones.
   3. What are the benefits of choosing this topic?
      1. I will raise awareness among teenagers that smartphones may cause their grades to go down.
3. Feasibility of the project
   1. Is there a need for my project in the first place?
      1. This is a need because many students are using smartphones and many of them are spending a lot of time using the smartphones. Most of their grades are dropping and there is need to raise awareness that smartphones may affect negatively on their academic performances.
   2. Will it be possible to actually carry out and complete this project? Why do I think so?
      1. Yes. Many students own smartphones and surveying them will be easy.
   3. Is your proposed course of action logical and realistic?
      1. Yes.
   4. How does the project provide sufficient opportunity for
      1. Generation of ideas?
         1. The group can generate ideas such as how we can survey the students and how we can present out findings.
      2. Analysis and evaluation of ideas?
         1. There will be plenty of data for us to analyse and evaluate the data.
4. Manageability of the project
   1. How will the project be handled?
      1. I will pick a few random students from each class to do the survey and analyse the data with my group mates. Deadlines will be given to each of the group mates so as to ensure we have enough time to complete the report on time.
   2. How does the project provide sufficient opportunity for group work?
      1. Everyone in the group will be given a role. 1 of us will do the surveying. 2 of us will do the report and 2 of us will analyse the data. Hence, there will be sufficient opportunity
   3. Do I anticipate difficulties/constraints? How do I intend to cope with these difficulties/constraints?
      1. Yes. I anticipate group mates not handing in their contribution in time. I intend to remind them of their contribution every now and then.
5. Accessibility of the information required
   1. I feel that surveys and interview are relevant to my project because they are important to my project because I am doing on people.
   2. I will obtain information for primary sources such as surveying the students through the survey websites such as surveymonkey.
   3. I can also interview them.
   4. I anticipate the students not working with us. I also believe that there will be some bias answers.

References

Cassavoy, L. (n.d.). What Makes a Smartphone Smart?. About.com. Retrieved July 17, 2011, from <http://cellphones.about.com/od/smartphonebasics/a/what_is_smart.htm>

MacManus, C. (2011). Pew: One-third of U.S. adults own smartphones. Cnet. Retrieved July 17, 2011, from <http://news.cnet.com/8301-1035_3-20078528-94/pew-one-third-of-u.s-adults-own-smartphones/?tag=mncol;3n>